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EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

One of the nicest things about the Fondren Library is the friendly helpfulness of the staff. I've been using research libraries in America and Europe for fifteen years, and rarely have I encountered a more uniformly willing staff. Now the library has added a new amenity, particularly useful to those of us with bad memories: every staff member sports a boldly-printed nametag. How pleasant to be able to say "Thank you, Dick or Ferne" instead of mumbling embarrassedly. I'm sure all library users will appreciate the opportunity to develop more personal relationships with the staff which this policy affords.

Behind the scenes, Fondren Library was subject to scrutiny by an ad-hoc committee of experienced library surveyors this fall. Later on in this issue of the FLYLEAF, Mr. O'Keefe discusses the results of that evaluation, which, on the whole, had high praise for our achievement. But the report provides no occasion for complacent rejoicing, for libraries, like other institutions, face sharply increasing pressures on their budgets. A few comparisons will dramatize the current situation. A librarian at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, estimates that because of inflation and increased enrollment the library is "35.6% worse off" than last year. The director of the University of Kansas library calculates that since 1971 his library's purchasing power has declined by 20%. At the University of Colorado, a budget frozen at 1971 levels has forced the library to reduce spending on current American books by 50% and to eliminate over 2,000 periodicals. (Recently, the Fondren reexamined its serials, requesting all

academic departments to eliminate any unnecessary or marginal subscriptions: the reduction amounted to only 360 out of 10,000).

Another factor eating into library purchasing power was last fall's devaluation of the dollar. Stanford estimates that it will cost its library an additional \$40,000 this year to purchase overseas books and serials; Hendrik Edelman, assistant director of libraries for Cornell, reports that \$60,000 worth of purchasing power has been wiped out, and that 10% of the foreign books and periodicals scheduled for purchase in 1971-72 now cannot be bought.

It is all the more important, therefore, that we make the best use possible of the limited funds available to the Fondren. Mrs. Elizabeth Rodell and the library staff have worked diligently over several months to explain to the Friends how costs of getting a book into the library collection are computed, and how Rice compares with other schools in this regard. Their report is printed in this issue, and serves to remind us all of the complexity and expense necessitated in any major research library.

Finally, the 20,000 volume Art Library has been moved to its permanent house, our newest building Sewall Hall. Originally a part of the University of St. Thomas, the Art Library was transferred to Rice in 1969 and moved to temporary quarters in Allen Center in September of that year. The day after that move was completed, floor plans were reviewed for the Library's eventual location in Sewall Hall, to which it moved in October 1971. Professional movers were called in to transport 685 boxes of books and the library furniture, but considerable savings were achieved by using student help for packing and unpacking, a laborious and dusty job requiring both a strong back and a clear mind to get the books on the shelves correctly. Fortunately Rice students have both.

The Art Library, containing periodicals and exhibition catalogs on the history of art, archaeology, anthropology, classics, photography, and cinema, now runs smoothly under the supervision of Shelby Miller, but two major problems loom. Since it is located in the basement of Sewall, flooding is an ever-present danger - indeed, some small leaks have already appeared. A second problem is that of space. Within three years the library will outgrow its present facilities: there will simply not be enough room for a growing collection, an increasing number of users, and an expanding staff to get the books to and from the people. So, as in so many other aspects of life, the resolution of one challenge merely sets the stage for other problems.

Without the continuing substantial support of the Friends, so many things would not be possible. All of us who use the Fondren are grateful for your interest and donations, and eager to see these tangible indications of your belief in Rice's educational ideals sustained and increased to meet the enlarged opportunities that we anticipate in the near future.

Robert L. Patten

FONDREN LIBRARY SURVEY

During the fall of 1971 a survey of the Rice libraries was undertaken at the request of the University administration acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The purpose was not to evaluate the collections, although the surveyors paid some attention to these, but to evaluate the effectiveness of the management and services of the library.

The survey was conducted by Louis E. Martin, Associate Executive Director of the Association of Research Libraries, and Richard DeGennaro, Director of Libraries at the University of Pennsylvania. It is not easily possible to summarize the findings and recommendations of the surveyors; these are contained in the 72-page report, The Fondren Library of Rice University: A Report of a Survey, a copy of which has been placed in the Reserve Reading Room for those who are interested in reading it. The large number of faculty and students who participated in the survey may have this interest.

Here is a brief selection from the report's summary:

"The problems facing Fondren are by and large problems of success, and the challenge is to make a good library better --- to maintain and increase the quality that has been laboriously built over the years. This is the same problem that faces Rice University itself. Neither the library nor the University can rest on past successes and accomplishments, but must strive to achieve new levels of excellence by building on quality."

Richard L. O'Keeffe
Librarian

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF A BOOK:

TEN YEARS LATER

Some of our readers remember an article which appeared in the October 1961 FLYLEAF, describing Fondren Library procedures and explaining how the ordering and cataloging of a book - the work of the so-called "Technical Services" or "Technical Processes Staff" - added from three to seven dollars to its purchase price. Kindly but curious, our Friends have asked us again, "How much does it cost to order and catalog a book?" After ten years we shall attempt to bring matters up to date, and to answer the implicit question, "Why does it cost so much?"

Librarians have been concerned about costs for a long time. A search of the literature reveals 853 technical services cost studies published between 1876 and 1969. The difficulty lies in obtaining cost figures for one library which will be comparable to those of other libraries.

Libraries, like families, have certain basic similarities, but, like families, they may differ markedly in life-styles. How does one obtain a standard cost figure for a family with three children who will go to college? Where does the family live? In River Oaks, or on a sheep ranch in Montana? Will the children go to Princeton or to a community college? What is stringent economy for one family would be extravagance for the other.

How does one obtain a standard figure for ordering and cataloging a library book? Take, for example, two libraries from among the 78 members of the Association of Research Libraries; here are some statistics for the year 1970/71:

<u>Library</u>	Volumes in <u>Library</u>	Net Volumes Added in <u>Year</u>	Total on <u>Staff</u>
Rice University	714,000	38,470	86
Library "X"	879,000	40,100	130

Might one not assume that if Rice added over 38,000 volumes that year with a total library staff of 86, Library "X", which added only 40,100 volumes, was not making efficient use of its staff of 130? Actually, "X" University has an enrollment of about 17,000 compared to Rice's 3,100. Think how many more reading rooms are required, under staff supervision night and day; think of the lines at the circulation desk! Furthermore, "X" has four large departmental libraries to Rice's one, requiring additional staff to provide catalogs, reference service, and all the other accoutrements of a library.

On the other hand, the printed statistics do not reflect qualitative aspects of Fondren's library service. Very few libraries, for example, represent in the card catalog each item ordered as soon as the order is placed. Nor is it usual practice for libraries to make available to faculty members and students an uncataloged book at any time after its arrival in the library.

During the 1960's, when large grants were made for the purchase of books and other library materials, college presidents and school superintendents asked insistently for a formula to determine the costs of making these materials ready for use. The American Library Association (ALA) and its divisions have repeatedly tried to come up with methods of computing costs which would be applicable to libraries within

certain parameters of size and kind, but so far none has been successful. The present ALA Technical Services Cost Committee is working on a project to set standard times for technical processes, and the Technical Services Statistics Committee is working on standard statistical reporting forms.

A simple measure of technical processing costs known as TSCOR (Technical Services Cost Ratio) has been devised by an ALA committee of that name. A library's TSCOR is the ratio of its technical services salaries and wages for a given time, divided by the amount spent for books and other library materials in that time. A considerable advantage of this ratio to measure technical services costs is that it minimizes the differences in library practice in assigning functions to various administrative units of the library. Such a ratio has a built-in leveler: "As book costs go up or down, staff costs will tend to vary in the same direction."¹

Beginning with the year 1970-71, we have determined the TSCOR at Rice, for use within the university, to see whether our efficiency improves from year to year. Rice's TSCOR for 1970-71 was .61. This means that last year, for every dollar spent for library materials, sixty-one cents for salaries and wages in the technical services area. This ratio should be kept in mind; if, for example, in addition to the current budget, consideration is given to acquiring a special collection costing \$100,000, \$61,000 must be found for the processing of these materials - i.e., their bibliographical identification, description, subject

¹Helen Welch, "Technical Services Costs, Statistics, and Standards," in Library Resources and Technical Services (LRTS) 11: 436-443, fall 1967.

analysis and classification, card production, physical preparation, binding (if necessary) and the reporting of titles to the national network of union lists and catalogs.

While making every effort to utilize our staff efficiently, we strive to maintain a reasonable standard of accuracy and completeness in our work. To several questions librarians ask one another, Rice gives the "right" answers:

Q: Do you take full advantage of the cataloging and other services offered by the Library of Congress?

A: Yes. From the beginning, Rice has followed the Library of Congress system of cataloging, classification, and subject analysis right down the line. In 1968 Rice began participating in the National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging (NPAC), and LC shared cataloging program designed to speed up the availability of cataloging copy for recent foreign imprints. As an NPAC member, Rice receives at no cost a copy of each LC card as soon as it is printed.

Q: Do you use clerks and other paraprofessional workers to relieve the professional librarians of clerical detail?

A: Yes. Our cataloging staff of 24 includes only 6 professionals (a ratio of 3 paraprofessionals to 1 professional). It is not uncommon to find a ratio of 2 to 1 and even 1 to 1 in university libraries, depending on a variety of factors.

Q: Do you use machines to increase production?

A: Yes. In an effort to lower costs, we investigate and employ, where appropriate, machine methods to facilitate bibliographic searching, card production, etc.

Why does it cost so much to make a library out of a mountain of books? One of the best answers in library history was given by William Warner Bishop of the Library of Congress in 1915:

"If each book were written by one person who never changed his name from the way it appeared on the title page of his first book; if each book were published at some plainly designated place and on a date explicitly set forth; if there were but one edition permitted; if there were no societies, clubs, universities, journals, academies, legislatures, governments issuing books; if all reprints, separates, and preprints could be prevented, then, and only then, might catalogs become simple on their author side.

"Go to your Order Department and scan the first truck-load of books coming in. Every possible variety and mode of publication will meet you in any large library. Divergent forms of surname, and of forename; governmental, institutional and society publications; serials and series; newspapers and magazines; reprints, new editions, translations, abridgements, commentaries; official and non-official reports; dissertations and programs; authors, dead a couple of thousand years, and others just beginning to write; a jumble of every possible sort of responsibility for the appearance of things to print. And somehow these

must be treated with a degree of uniformity and common sense which shall make it an easy task to rush to the catalog and identify any one of them!"

Elizabeth Rodell
Assistant Librarian for
Technical Services

DESIDERATA

We still seek donors for the Thomas Moore Letters, the Harold Jantz Collection of German Baroque Literature, and the National Geographic Sky Survey, all described in the October 1971 issue of the FLYLEAF, and for the United States Congress Committee Hearings, the Catalogue of the Inner Temple Manuscripts, and the Lloyd Goodrich book on Edward Hopper, described in the January 1972 issue. The purchase of these items would greatly strengthen our holdings in areas where the faculty is currently working, and thus would be a significant contribution to Rice's educational goals.

We would also like to acquire:

CONCORDANCE TO THE PLAYS AND PREFACES OF BERNARD SHAW.
10 VOLUMES. \$275.00

This computer-assisted work of nearly 7,000 pages contains about 700,000 entries, covering Shaw's 55 plays and their prefaces as well as five prefaces written for groups of plays. The scope of the concordance, the importance of the work it embraces, and its unique features make it an essential reference for universities supporting graduate level English literature programs.

MICROFILM EDITION OF THE HOUSTON POST.
\$324.00 per year

Until recently, microfilms of the Post were given to the Fondren Library. We need to find a new donor who will be equally generous in enabling us to acquire this permanent record of an indispensable reference source.

GIFTS

Mrs. Barbara Kile
Gifts and Exchanges Librarian
The Fondren Library
Rice University

Dear Mrs. Kile:

I am greatly pleased to present to the Fondren Library this three-volume edition of the major works of Huldreich Zwingli in English translation.

When I came to Rice in the fall of 1966, the library holdings in the continental Reformation were, at best, inadequate, especially with respect to Huldreich Zwingli, and when in the summer of 1967 I sought the temporary loan of these volumes from my great mentor at Yale, Roland Bainton, with characteristic generosity he presented them to me as a gift which has ever since been most precious to me. The volumes, however, are extremely rare; only 750 copies exist, and insofar as I have been able to ascertain, they will not be reprinted--the demand is insufficient. As I have watched our sixteenth-century holdings grow over the past six years, I have thought on more than one occasion that it would be far better for these volumes to belong in the public domain than to be inaccessible within the private library of an individual scholar. When my colleague Hardin Craig, Jr. died last June, I came to my decision. Hardin was originally a sixteenth-century scholar; indeed, it was on Reformation problems that he first published, and these volumes are therefore given to the Fondren Library in his memory, from one sixteenth-century historian to honor another, from a Princetonian of the Class of 1950 to honor a Princetonian of the Class of 1929, and both linked together as well in

yet a third common bond, a devotion to the growth of the library at Rice.

With these volumes our Reformation collection is greatly strengthened, but precisely because they are so rare I would respectfully make the request that their use be restricted to the Fondren. I believe that Hardin would not have objected to this; I know that he would be gratified that our students who have neither Latin nor Swiss-German could henceforth read Zwingli should they become interested in him.

With every good wish, I am,

Faithfully,

Charles Garside, Jr.
Associate Professor
of History

A gift for the purchase of books in the history of science and technology has been received from the Cameron Iron Works, Inc.

A gift for the purchase of books has been received from Dr. Malcolm R. MacPhail.

Donation to the Bartlett Beethoven collection by Richard C. Palmer.

Mr. Leopold L. Meyer has made the following gifts from his personal library in memory of:

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RUBAIYAT OF OMAR KHYAM. Geo. Harrap & Co., Ltd., London, Illustrated by Willy Pogany, full blue calf, gold tooled, bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe.

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